

Attorney Docket:
920476-904862

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DATE: April 5, 2004

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FROM: William M. Lee, Jr.

TO: Examiner: Dzong D. Tran
Art Unit: 2633
The United States Patent and Trademark Office

MAIL STOP Responses No Fee

Attached: Response To Office Action Of January 5, 2004

If you do not receive all pages, please contact William M. Lee, Jr. at (312) 214-4800 or his assistant, Jennifer Ramirez at (312) 214-4829.

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of : Sparks, Adrian
Serial No. : 09/745,890
Filed : December 21, 2000
For : Load Sharing Nodes in A Network Utilising Shared
Optical Protection
Examiner : Tran, Dzung, D
Art Unit : 2633
Customer number : 23644

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Name of person signing Jennifer J. Ramirez
Signature [Signature]

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JANUARY 05, 2004

Honorable Director of Patents and Trademarks
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir,

In response to the Office Action mailed January 5, 2004, the applicants
respond as follows.